

I. Amendment

A. In the claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (previously amended) A method for making a combination of a thematic package and an article contained in the package for combined marketing, the method including the steps of:

constructing the package as a replica of a recognizable icon, the package having a shape that is different than any shape to be contained therein,

the shape of the package visually suggestive of an activity associated with the icon in which the article is used during the activity, after removal from the package,

the package having a hollow interior;

locating the article within the hollow interior of the package to form the combination of the article and the thematically-shaped package; and
marketing the combination.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

8. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a golf ball, and wherein the activity is a game of golf.

9. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the replica as a baseball, and wherein the activity is a game of baseball.

10. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a life preserver, and wherein the activity is a race.

11. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a football, and wherein the activity is a game of football.

12. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a tennis ball, and wherein the activity is a game of tennis.

13. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a ball, and wherein the activity is a game in which the ball is used.

14. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a wheel, and wherein the activity is a race.

15. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes: constructing the package as the replica of a charge or bank card, and wherein the activity includes use of the card.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, further including the step of locating a logo on the package.

18. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, further including the step of: adding an outer layer of packaging to the combination, the outer layer of packaging shaped to visually suggest the associated activity.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the outer layer includes a sleeve for golf balls.

20. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing further includes the step of:

constructing the package to have additional utility independent from containing said article.

21. (previously amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of constructing further includes the step of:

constructing the package to be a toy after said removal of said article.

22. (previously amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of constructing the package to have additional utility includes constructing the package out of a substance capable of receiving subsequent writing from a pen or magic marker.

23. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of

constructing includes securing to an exterior part of the package a means for attaching the package to another article.

24. (previously amended) A method for making a combination of thematic packaging and an object contained in the thematic packaging, the method including the steps of:

- forming the combination by providing the object in the package,
- the package being shaped like a particular ball to visually suggest a particular sport activity associated with said ball, the package being openable to remove the object,
- the object being a member of the group of rain gear consisting of a wiping cloth, a rain coat, a rain vest, a golf bag cover, a ditty bag, a poncho, a hat, and a seat cover,
- the member being useful during the activity wherein the package is openable to remove the object for use of the object while engaged in the associated activity.

25. (previously amended) A method for making a combination of thematically-shaped packaging for a thematically associated article contained therein, the method including the steps of:

- constructing a package having a shape that is a recognizable icon visually suggestive of an activity associated with the icon,
- the package having a hollow interior to form the packaging for the article;
- locating the article within the hollow interior of the package,
- the article having a use in the associated activity, to form the combination of the article and the thematically-shaped packaging; and wherein the step of constructing further includes the step of:

- constructing the package as a replica of a golf ball to visually suggest the activity of a game of golf; and wherein the step of locating the article within the packaging further includes

the step of:

locating rain gear, as the article, within the hollow interior of the replica such that the rain gear is removable for the use during, and visually associated for use in, the activity of playing the game of golf in the rain.

26. (previously amended) A method of making a combination of thematically-shaped packaging and an article contained therein, the method including the steps of:

constructing the package as a replica of a symbol having a shape that visually suggests an activity associated with the symbol,

the package having a hollow interior to form the packaging for the article;

locating the article within the hollow interior of the packaging,

the article having a use in the associated activity,

to form the combination of the article and the thematically-shaped packaging;

and wherein the step of constructing further includes the step of:

constructing the package as a replica of a baseball to visually suggest the associated activity of a baseball game;

and wherein the step of locating the article within the package further includes the step of:

locating rain gear, as the article, within the packaging such that the rain gear is removable for the use during, and visually associated with, the associated activity of watching the baseball game in the rain.

27. (previously amended) The method of any one claims 5 and 8-23, wherein the step of locating is carried out with rain gear as the article.

28. (previously amended) The method of any one of claims 5 and 8-23, further including the steps of:

locating another article within the hallow, the other article having a use during the activity, after removal from the package.

29. (previously amended) The method of any one claims 5 and 8-23, wherein the step of constructing includes constructing the replica out of plastic and the article out of plastic.

30. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing is carried out with the activity being a sport activity.

31. (previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes constructing the package as having separably joinable pieces, the pieces being joinable to form the hallow interior of the package and being separably to open the package for the removal of the article.

49. (previously added) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of constructing includes the step of imprinting a message on the package, the message being suggestive of the use of the article.

50. (previously added) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of constructing includes constructing the package as having separably joinable pieces, the pieces being joinable to form the hallow interior of the package and being separably to open the package for the removal of the article.

51. (previously added) A method for making more than one combination of a thematic package and article respectively contained therein for combined marketing, the method including the steps of:

constructing the packages as respective replicas of at least one recognizable icon, one of the packages having a shape that is different than any shape to be contained therein,

each said package having a shape visually suggestive of an activity associated with said at least one icon in which the respective article is used during the activity, after removal from the package, and

each said package having a hallow interior;

locating the respective articles within the respective hallow interiors of the respective packages to form the more than one combination of the articles and the thematic packages; and

marketing the more than one combination.

52. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 34, wherein:

the step of constructing the packages to replicate the at least one recognizable icon is carried out with each said at least one recognizable icon being a golf ball; and further including the step of packaging the more than one combination in a box having the appearance of a sleeve for golf balls to permit carrying out of said step of marketing the more than one combination.

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 34, wherein the step of marketing the more than one combination is carried out with the respective packages

resembling balls and with a box therefore.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 34, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively being different kinds of rain gear.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 34, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the articles respectively being different kinds of articles.

56. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 34, wherein the step of locating is carried out with one of the kinds of articles including rain gear.

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 34, wherein the step of constructing the packages includes constructing the packages to respectively resemble a variety of balls.

58. (previously added) The method of any one claims 5 and 8-23, wherein the step of locating is carried out with the article from a group consisting of sun screen, a band-aide, a golf tee, ball mark, insect repellent, and bee sting treatment.